

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS

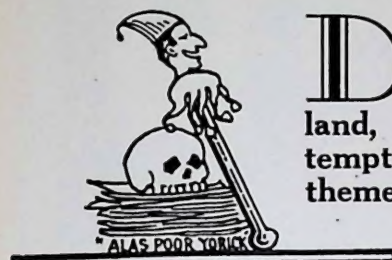
Editor and Managing Director

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December 9th, 1933

WHAT IS A CANADIAN PICTURE?



in the United States.

English pictures were in many instances as far away from being British in tradition, background and locale as one could possibly imagine.

Critics of Motion Pictures in Canada declared themselves in favour of British Films, but demanded that the picture should be British. It is not an unusual instance that citizens of a city, or province know less about their city, or province than visitors. The old proverb which involves the thought that "distant fields are greenest", inspires natives to search for beauty and adventure out of their own country, even when such beauty and adventure is close to their own doorstep.

This was the case in England. The visitors, many Canadians among these, longed to see England as it had inspired them, upon the screen, in the British pictures produced, but the British producers who took the history and background of England, its scenery for granted, presented a foreign atmosphere in its British productions.

We recall an early picture, so early we can afford to talk about it now, Matheson Lang in "A Chinese Bungalow", wherein the background was Chinese and the leading character a Chinaman. Canadians inquired, "What makes this picture British?"

Finally with much advice from Canadian distributors of British Films, and advice also from the general American market, the British producer began to give us British pictures, literally speaking, selecting historical backgrounds, or English scenery, story material typical of England in the production of its pictures, and British pictures began to create a following here.

We should observe this lesson in Canada, in

the production of Canadian pictures. So many pictures are produced which must be finer than those we can at present produce, that our opportunity lies in producing Canada upon the screen. We, therefore, are not in favour of a selection of material which presents a Chinatown if we have one in any of our cities, for our initial Canadian productions. Such a background or theme cannot possibly present Canada to the markets of the world as Canadian, nor can we capitalize upon an original angle, in Motion Pictures, namely the Canadian angle, when we discard our virtues to present our vices.

THE QUEEN OF THE SCREEN

MARIE DRESSLER, Queen of the Screen, appears at Loew's, Toronto, in "The Sweetheart of Christopher Bean". No matter what material Dressler interprets by way of characterization, she is such a great artist that she weaves a silken garment of cotton threads.

As "The Sweetheart of Christopher Bean" she has an opportunity for pathos and comedy, and Dressler makes sufficient out of these elements to build up a personality in "Abby" which you love and remember.

Give Dressler one or two good scenes in a picture and her fans are satisfied. Lovers of Opera say the same thing about Chaliapin, one or two of his real songs and this is worth the price of admission.

Dressler has many excellent scenes and bits in "Christopher Bean" which can be talked of; and consequently Loew's played to capacity business.



MORE THAN 300,000 PEOPLE IN 14 DAYS
OVER 3RD WEEK FIRST TIME IN THEATRE
DATE OPENINGS DETHRONE ALL ATT

RADIO CITY

GREAT SYMPHONY

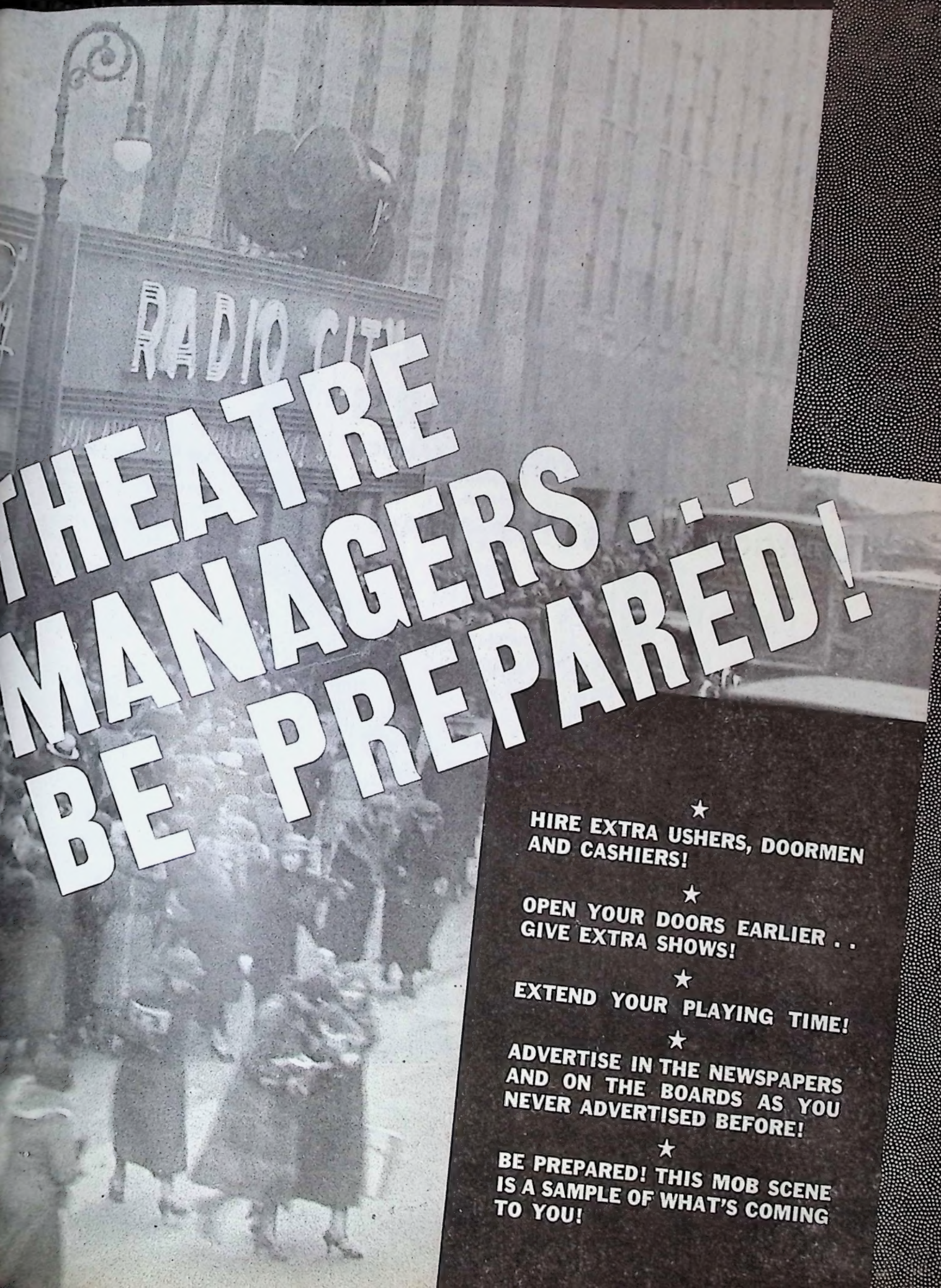
KATHARINE HEPBURN in

KATHARINE HEPBURN in "LITTLE WOMEN"

by LOUISA MAY ALCOTT...with JOAN BENNETT..PAUL LUKAS..
FRANCES DEE..JEAN PARKER..EDNA MAY OLIVER.. Douglass
Montgomery.. Henry Stephenson.. Directed by GEORGE CUKOR
MERIAN C. COOPER, Executive Producer.. Kenneth Macgowan, Associate

★ ★ ★ RKO RADIO PICTURE ★ ★ ★

STORY . . . OVER 200 DAY-AND-
NCE RECORDS THRUOUT STATES!



RADIO CITY THEATRE MANAGERS . . . BE PREPARED!

★
HIRE EXTRA USHERS, DOORMEN
AND CASHIERS!

★
OPEN YOUR DOORS EARLIER . .
GIVE EXTRA SHOWS!

★
EXTEND YOUR PLAYING TIME!

★
ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSPAPERS
AND ON THE BOARDS AS YOU
NEVER ADVERTISED BEFORE!

★
BE PREPARED! THIS MOB SCENE
IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT'S COMING
TO YOU!

SAMUEL GOLDWYN'S
production of

**RONALD
COLMAN**

in

**The
Masquerader**

with

ELISSA LANDI

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK
presents

LEE TRACY

in

**ADVICE
TO THE
LOVELORN**

A DARRYL F. ZANUCK
production

with

SALLY BLANE

**20TH
CENTURY
PICTURE**

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK
presents

*Walter
Winchell's*

**BROADWAY
THRU A
KEYHOLE**

A DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Production

with

CONSTANCE CUMMINGS » RUSS COLUMBO
PAUL KELLY » BLOSSOM SEELE
GREGORY RATOFF » TEXAS GUINN
EDDIE FOY, Jr. » FRANCES WILLMAN
ABE LYMAN AND HIS BAND
Directed by LOWELL SHERMAN

**20TH
CENTURY
PICTURE**

WHAT BUSINESS
THEY'RE DOING!

IT'S A BANNER YEAR

for thousands of theatres
now playing these smash hits

**PAUL
OBESON**
in
Gene O'Neill's
**EMPEROR
JONES**
Tchaikovsky-Cochran
production

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK
presents

**WALLACE
BEERY
GEORGE
RAFT
JACKIE
COOPER**
in
**THE
BOWERY**

A DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Production

**20TH
CENTURY
PICTURE**

JOSEPH M. SCHENCK
presents

**GEORGE
BANCROFT**
in
**BLOOD
MONEY**

A DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Production

with FRANCES DEE
CHICK CHANDLER
JUDITH ANDERSON
BLOSSOM SEELEY

**20TH
CENTURY
PICTURE**

HIT
AFTER
HIT!

AND THAT'S
ONLY A STARTER!

PLENTY
MORE ARE
COMING!

Released thru **UNITED ARTISTS**

RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE Motion Picture Industry in Canada has been running away with some civic honours recently which places it noticeably in the arena of politics; P. J. Nolan is Mayor of Ottawa, while Herbert E. Wilton becomes Mayor of Hamilton, both important cities in the Province of Ontario.

The victory in Hamilton is described in the Hamilton Spectator as follows, "With one of the most startling upsets in the history of elections in Hamilton, Mayor John Peebles, seeking a fifth term of office, went down to defeat at the hands of ex-Alderman Herbert Earl Wilton, who came into the field practically unheralded, and, riding on the tide of, 'It's time for a change', practically swept the polls, ending with a majority of 6,234 in an election which, although quiet, brought out only a hundred fewer votes than the battle of 1932".

Wilton it appears defeated Major Peebles, not because the citizens of Hamilton had anything in particular against their mayor, but because of the restlessness of the people who are demanding a change from the old party regime.

There is not supposed to be any party politics in our civic campaigns in Canada, but the machinery of all the party politics, through various organizations, etc., certainly functions in civic politics.

A few years ago I ran for the Board of Education in Ward 5 of this city, the same Ward in which I will contest the Bellwoods riding seat in the coming provincial election for member of Parliament. I got into the campaign late giving myself about ten days for preparation.

MY competitor in particular was a candidate who had been a president of a political ward association, whose sister was then president of the women's ward association at that particular time. This candidate belonged to every fraternal order one could imagine that was Protestant. He was the past grand master, and the grand master of who's who and what's what, incidentally was he a "Momzer"? He could get a kiss from Hitler any time for service!

I polled close to 5,000 votes while he polled approximately 5,182. It is customary after such an election to receive a printed form of your returns as registered at every polling sub-division and the votes of all the other candidates in your ward and throughout the city. I noted that there appeared to be something peculiar about my returns in a few polling sub-divisions, for instance in a sub-division in which I was polling votes over a hundred, I suddenly dropped to 5 votes and nineteen; and so I asked for a recount, which is given before a sitting judge.

To make a long story short, my 5 votes were 55, and my 19 votes precipitated a postponement of the recount so that the deputy returning officer could be sent for to inquire of him why he was short in his count of ballots; and why his returns were so irregular and confusing. Mr. Campbell was the name of this returning officer and coming into court before the judge this was his statement, "Judge, I was sorry to do this to Mrs. Smith (Ray Lewis), I had nothing against her, she is a nice woman, but I am going to tell the truth because the gang won't give me another job anyway, and I am not going to be the goat for what they did. I had all of Mrs. Smith's ballots piled up when the gang came in and took her ballots, putting them in their pocket and walking out with them. What could I do, I could not get my returns made up properly. The gang said, when they took Mrs. Smith's ballots, "We will take care of these".

JUDGE LEE, who was presiding, turned to me and said, "Do you wish to lay a charge against this man?" and "big-hearted Ray Lewis" replied, "Why arrest him, to arrest him I would be obliged to arrest the gang, and since the gang belongs to my political party I would have to lay a charge against the gang."

Incidentally, it would have cost the city of Toronto about ten thousand dollars to have another election, and so I took my medicine, chalking it down to experience.

I know that "the loud speaker" hates to have me write about politics in The Digest, but when we, who are in the Industry, become mayors of important cities and members of Parliament, its news, good news for the Industry, which is the "goat" which every reformer rides; and apparently the "hope chest" of anyone who conceives an idea that the way to get some "ready dough" is to ask for legislation against the Industry.

Incidentally the story of how ballots can be stolen would furnish an interesting scene or two in a motion picture production.



Famous Players Give Shea's Hippodrome for Benefit Show Under-privileged Children

Observations



By The Editor

MR. BAILEY, of Dryden, Ontario, writes to The Digest, "Will you kindly advise me who is paying for this paper that comes to me every week. I certainly am not, so govern yourself accordingly."

May we observe, Mr. Bailey, that Ray Lewis is paying your subscription just to let you know all about a business in which you are financially interested, to educate you in showmanship and to keep you informed of the excellent pictures on the market. You have addressed us as "Gentlemen", but we are the "female of the species", far deadlier than the male. Your one comforting thought is that since the woman gender is our inheritance, it is your good fortune to get your Digest while "the woman pays".

* * * *

THIS reminds me of a story, Mr. Bailey. Several years ago two men came on to Milwaukee to a convention of Independent theatre owners. Your editor of The Digest was there, this same Ray Lewis, and she was introduced to these men as "Miss Lewis". During the conversation she asked these men what they were doing at the convention, etc., and they informed her that they had come on "to kick that fresh guy, Ray Lewis, in the pants". Whereupon Ray Lewis replied, "Gentlemen, you have made a bloomer, I am Ray Lewis, I use step-ins, and never wear pants!"

The moral of this story, Mr. Bailey, is that each of these gentlemen gave Ray Lewis \$10.00 to cover several subscriptions to The Digest. In your own words, "Govern yourself accordingly".

* * * *

WHILE we are in a reminiscent mood, there is an exhibitor in Toronto, an independent exhibitor, who has, during the past decade, built up a substantial fortune. Prior to that period he was a poor man. Several of our exchange managers, who are conspicuous in their efforts on behalf of various philanthropies, have repeatedly called upon this exhibitor for a contribution to a well-trying charity, but this exhibitor has just as repeatedly refused to contribute. It is a pity that this exhibitor is leaving himself open to criticism and the ill effects of an unpopularity. It is most unusual for showmen to show a lack of generosity where Charity is concerned; and that is one of the reasons which makes this particular exhibitor a target for attack.

Take my advice, Exhibitor, you know yourself, bear your share of the burden of looking after our poor. When you feel that the cards are stacked against you, it will be too late for you to come to The Digest to voice a protest. It is your imperative duty to "get on the band wagon of giving with the rest of us". You are a rich man, share a little of your wealth with those who have nothing.

* * * *

AT a meeting attended by hundreds of women recently, the topic of conversation revolved around "Little Women", RKO's masterful motion picture with Katharine Hepburn. These women discussed other Hepburn pictures and the beauty of the "Little Women" story. They said it was playing to crowded houses in New York, which plainly goes to show, according to their judgment,

that even the public in New York love the better grade of pictures.

* * * *

ROBESON in "Emperor Jones", the United Artists feature, also came in for some discussion, and Your Observer was advised that several organizations were writing other associations in Canada to inform their members not to miss "Emperor Jones".

Then "The Private Life of Henry VIII" was discussed and there was a merry half hour of repartee and comments about this British film, released through Regal Films

* * * *

THE Monogram Pictures has as its head of production, Mr. Trem Carr, who has definitely abandoned unit production. Mr. Carr brings all production at the Studios directly under his supervision, and that of his staff, which is headed by Lou Ostrow, Monogram Executive producer; Mr. W. Ray Johnston, President of Monogram, said in regard to the new studio set-up of Mr. Carr, that his company had tested out the plan on several pictures and found that the results meant better pictures and greater boxoffice returns. Monogram is released through Empire Films in Canada.

* * * *

THERE is a most interesting story in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer screen adaptation of "The Sweetheart of Christopher Bean". Lionel Barrymore portrays the role of the doctor, a fine old character, honest in every sense of the meaning of honesty, until he is tempted by the possibility of securing a fortune, out of the paintings of the late Christopher Bean. The manner in which the old doctor compromises with his conscience and sinks to the level of the rotten code of his family, makes the picture take on a sense of reality.

* * * *

ON Tuesday night, December 12th, there will be a preview showing of Eddie Cantor in "Roman Scandals". Your Observer is preparing for a good laugh, a laugh which will peal merrily along for a good hour and a half, as Cantor would say, "The anticipation is a near relation of the sensation of my station." Get mad at that, Haskell!

* * * *

ARE Moving Pictures popular? The answer to this query would have been found, had our readers attended a private dinner to about fifty guests recently given in Toronto. The dancing was continually interrupted while some of the guests, not in Moving Pictures, entertained each other in doing scenes from current Motion Pictures. One popular matron did several scenes from "I'm No Angel", and since she knew all the dialogue, we are to conclude she had seen the picture many, many times! Another group tried "Three Little Pigs", but since these were Kosher matrons, it was difficult for them to become piggish. However, the Big Bad Wolf received plenty of publicity, which recalls a blotter, published by a motor company on which there are three little pigs, one is called "Antifreeze", the second "Storage Battery", and the third "Car Heater". Winter all covered with icicles

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Roly Young is Rambling 'Round with Roly and Talking Motion Pictures in Mail and Empire

Observations

(Continued from page 9)

is the Big Bad Wolf and the three little pigs give Winter the "merry ha! ha!"

* * * *

ONE of the funniest lines in "Christopher Bean" is spoken by Marie Dressler in the pullman scene. Dressler occupies the upper berth, and a bearded man is in the lower berth. He is continually sticking his bearded head out of the curtains, annoyed at "Abby's" conversation, whereupon "Abby" cries out, "Whose afraid of the Big Bad Wolf!" It goes over big.

"Only Yesterday" opened at The Uptown, and Toronto has conceded it an important position among the big pictures. No wonder Uncle Laemmle announces, "I am proud to present 'Only Yesterday'".

* * * *

HENRY NATHANSON is a real picture fan, whenever Your Observer meets him, he is ready to talk about a picture which Your Observer is sure to enjoy. Now it is Alice Brady in "Should Ladies Behave?" Henry says, "Brady is wonderful in the part and the picture is a laugh every minute."

We forgot to mention that "Henry VIII" was also presented at the private party, with one of the matrons as Anne of Cleves, and the editor of The Digest as "Henry VIII". Some one said that Ray Lewis' "Henry VIII" reminded him of Wallace Beery, mostly Beery, but when Your Observer interviewed Ray Lewis, she said, "It's a lie, in the words of Shakespeare, a damned wicked lie, with an accent on the 'e' in damned to make it sound real classy, like 'damn-ned'".

She claims that there was not even a glass of beer in her interpretation, not that "the well had run dry", but there was no beer at that party! The best line in the presentation of this scene from "Henry VIII" was the one introduced by the pretty matron, who tried to be as homely as "Anne of Cleves". Said she, "If I cannot have 'Henry VIII', I'll take Henry Nathanson."

Oh, by the way, there were some profits on the Movie Ball, held at the King Edward, and they went to Charities. Good-by-ee, as they say on the Radio.

Western Electric Installed in Madrid

Western Electric equipment is being installed in the new Fona Espana Studios in Madrid according to R. M. Hatfield, European Manager of Electrical Research Products. The latest type recording equipment is being installed, including a complete dubbing and re-recording channel with microphone, amplifying equipment, film recorder and three improved sound on film reproducers, one of which will be fitted to a picture projector head.

The preview room will be equipped with a double base reproducer and double film attachment for synchronous projection of separate sound and picture prints on each machine.

The equipment is practically the same as that which was recently installed by Western Electric in the Fona Roma studios in Rome, Italy.

WARNER BROS. fiscal year ended August 20th, 1933, and showed a net loss of \$6,291,748 after taxes, amortization, depreciation, interest, minority interest, etc., had been deducted from the intake. There was a profit of \$1,286,071 from the retirement of debentures and subsidiaries funded indebtedness which was credited to surplus account and not taken into consideration in the net loss.

1932 saw a net loss for Warner Bros. of \$14,095,054, a difference of \$8,000,000.

Censor Board Reports That 108 British Films Were Introduced Into Canada Last Year



Martha Sleeper and Buster Phelps in the Monogram picture, "Broken Dreams".

Selig to Produce Series Pictures at Victoria

Kenneth J. Bishop, producer of the Commonwealth Productions Ltd., announces that in addition to its program of sixteen pictures, at Victoria, B.C., for a New York and London distributing company, Col. William Nicholas Selig will also produce a series of feature pictures at Victoria.

The first picture of Commonwealth was very well received in Hollywood, states Mr. Bishop; and this has encouraged the producers to continue with the plans of making British Quota pictures in Canada. The second story will be "The Black Robe", a mystery story written by a Canadian journalist, Guy Morton, and in which Vancouver's Chinatown will be utilized as a background. Colonel Selig is reported as the pioneer of the first historical full-length feature pictures produced in Hollywood, and it appears that Kenneth Bishop worked in the studio of Col. Selig.

Nick Stuart will appear in "The Black Robe", which will have a local cast with the exception of H. B. Warner and Lucille Brown.

Proposed Censor Appeal Board Arouses Woman Interest

The Provincial Council of Women which recently met in Toronto at the Young Women's Christian Association headquarters, was convened with delegates attending from all over the province of Ontario.

Many resolutions came up for discussion and were forwarded to the Government. Among these was one dealing with the rumoured Censor Appeal Board. The resolution contained several inquiries concerning such a Board, among which were: Who was asking for such a board? By whom will it be financed? Who will appoint the members and to whom will they be responsible? What relation will the appeal board have to the Censor Board?

THEATRE FOR SALE

Cinema, in British Columbia, nearest competition 65 miles away; specially built four years ago by present proprietor; excellently equipped; "talkies"; weekly profit, \$75 to \$150; very low running expenses. Price \$25,000 freehold.

CLEMENT BLAKE & DAY

The Cinema Agents, 22 Wardour St., London, England.